



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A flexible welding implement, comprising:
a torch head operable to couple electricity to a welding electrode disposed therein;
a cooling fluid supply tube operable to convey a cooling fluid to the torch head; and
a first biasing member ~~coiled wire spring~~ operable to flexibly couple the cooling fluid supply tube to the torch head.
2. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 1, comprising:
a cooling fluid return tube operable to convey the cooling fluid from the torch head; and
a second biasing member ~~coiled wire spring~~ operable to flexibly couple the cooling fluid return tube to the torch head.
3. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 2, comprising:
a gas supply tube operable to convey a gas to the torch head; and
a third biasing member ~~coiled wire spring~~ operable to flexibly couple the gas supply tube to the torch head.
4. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 1, comprising a second cooling fluid supply tube secured to the torch head, wherein the cooling fluid

supply tube is coupled to the second cooling fluid supply tube by the second biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~.

5. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 4, comprising a flexible tube disposed over the first coiled wire ~~spring~~ to define a fluid channel for the cooling liquid to flow from the ~~gas-cooling fluid~~ supply tube to the second ~~gas~~ cooling fluid supply tube axially through the center of the first biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~.

6. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 1, comprising a second cooling fluid return tube secured to the torch head, wherein the cooling fluid return tube is coupled to the second cooling fluid return tube by the second biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~.

7. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 5, comprising a second gas supply tube secured to the torch head, wherein the gas supply tube is coupled to the second gas supply tube by the third biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~.

8. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 6, comprising a second flexible tube disposed over the second biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~ and a third flexible tube disposed over the third biasing member ~~coiled-wire spring~~.

9. (original): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 7, comprising a handle disposed over the gas supply tube, the cooling fluid supply tube, and the cooling fluid return tube.

10. (currently amended): A flexible welding implement, comprising:
a torch coupleable to a handle, comprising:
a torch head operable to receive a cooling liquid; and
a plurality of coil spring disposed within the torch to enable the torch head to be
displaced relative to the handle, wherein the torch directs the cooling
liquid to flow from a first tube axially through the a first coil spring
to the torch head.
11. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10,
comprising a flexible tube disposed over the first coil spring, ~~and a portion of the first tube, and a~~
~~portion of the second tube~~ to define a fluid channel for the cooling liquid to flow axially through the
first coil spring.
12. (original): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 11, wherein the
flexible tube comprises heat shrink tubing.
13. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10,
comprising a second coil spring disposed within the torch to enable the torch head to be
displaced relative to the handle, wherein the torch is adapted to direct the cooling liquid to flow
from the torch head axially through the second coil to a second tube spring.
14. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 13,
comprising a third coil spring disposed within the torch to enable the torch head to be displaced
relative to the handle, wherein the torch is adapted to direct a gas to flow from a third tube
axially through the third spring to the torch head.
15. (currently amended): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 14,
~~comprising a~~ wherein the first tube is coupleable to a cooling liquid supply line, the second tube is
coupleable to a cooling liquid return line, ~~and at~~ the third tube is coupleable to a gas supply tube.

16. (original): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 15, comprising a tube support member, wherein the first tube, the second tube, and the third tube are disposed through the tube support member.

17. (original): The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10, comprising the handle.

18. (original): A welding implement, comprising:
a torch, comprising:
a torch head;
a tripod support system secured to the torch head to flexibly support the
torch head, the tripod comprising:
a first leg comprising a first spring;
a second leg comprising a second spring; and
a third leg comprising a third spring.

19. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 18, wherein at least one of the legs is adapted to direct a fluid axially through the first spring.

20. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 19, wherein the first leg is adapted to direct a gas axially through the first spring.

21. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 20, wherein the second leg is adapted to direct a cooling fluid to the torch head axially through the second spring, and the third leg is adapted to direct the cooling fluid from the torch head axially through the second spring.

22. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 18, comprising a plurality of tubes and a tube support member, wherein each leg of the tripod support system comprises a tube disposed through the tube support member.

23. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 22, wherein each of the springs comprises a coiled wire spring secured to an end of one of the plurality of tubes.

24. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 22, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch, wherein the tripod support system enables the torch head to be flexibly positioned relative to the handle.


25. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 18, comprising a deformable support member extending through the tripod support system intermediate the first leg, the second leg, and the third leg.

26. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 25, wherein the deformable support member comprises a plurality of wires braided together.

27. (original): The welding implement as recited in claim 26, wherein the plurality of wires comprises a first coiled portion disposed over the first leg, a second coiled portion disposed over the second leg, and a third coiled portion disposed over the third leg.

28. (original): A method of manufacturing a flexible welding implement, comprising:

- securing a coiled wire spring to an end of a first tube;
- securing a second tube to a torch head;
- securing the coiled wire spring to an end of the second tube; and
- disposing a flexible tube over the coiled wire spring to enable a fluid to flow through the first tube, the flexible tube, and the second tube to the torch head.



29. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, wherein securing a coiled wire spring to an end of a first tube comprises brazing the coiled wire spring to the end of the first tube.

30. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, wherein disposing a flexible tube over the coiled wire comprises applying heat to the flexible tube to shrink the flexible tube onto the coiled wire spring.

31. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, molding an insulating material over the flexible tube.

32. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, comprising disposing the first tube through a tube support member operable to support a plurality of tubes.

33. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, molding an insulating material over the flexible tube.

34. (original): The method as recited in claim 28, comprising disposed a coiled end portion of a support member over the first tube and securing an opposite end of the support member to the torch head.

35. (new): A welding implement, comprising:
a torch head;
at least one tube operable to convey a fluid; and
a plurality of coils secured to the torch head to enable the torch head to be angled relative to the at least one tube, wherein each coil of the plurality of coils is displaced relative to the other coils in the plurality of coils.

36. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of coils is adapted to direct a fluid axially through the coil.

37. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 36, wherein a first coil is adapted to direct a gas axially through the first spring.

38. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 37, wherein a second coil is adapted to direct a cooling fluid to the torch head axially through the second coil.

39. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 38, wherein a third coil is adapted to direct the cooling fluid from the torch head axially through the second coil.

40. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 35, comprising a tube support member, wherein the at least one tube comprises a plurality of tubes and each of the plurality of tubes is disposed through the tube support member.

41. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 35, comprising a deformable support member extending through the plurality of coils.

42. (new): The welding implement as recited in claim 41, wherein the deformable support member comprises a plurality of wires braided together.